

SEPT.
1-15,
2011

VOL. 19
#15

\$1.50

people's VOICE

**Labour Day
greetings!**

See page 4

Printed in Canada by union labour
on recycled paper  118-M
Publications Mail Agreement #40011632

Sinking into debt: the great capitalist crisis of 2011

**- see page 6
for comment
& analysis -**



Police violence in Chile

Up to 100,000 students have rallied for free public education this summer, only to be hit with massive police violence and hundreds of arrests.

- Report on page 12 -

2-3 Save the CWB

Across the prairie provinces during August, thousands of farmers packed public meetings to oppose the Harper Tory attempt to remove the Canadian Wheat Board's single-desk authority.

INSIDE

5 Alienation and riots...

When angry youths set fires and destroy property, that's a riot. But when the ruling classes loot entire economies, that's the invisible hand of capitalism...

12 Three years in jail

Three years after being arrested in front of TV cameras, Colombian labour activist Lilianny Obando has yet to face trial, despite the collapse of the phony charges against her.

Stop the witch hunt and smears in Toronto

Statement from the Communist Party (Ontario), Aug. 15, 2011

The Communist Party is considering legal action, including a complaint to the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal regarding Toronto City Councillor George Mammoliti's witch-hunting at City Hall, and his attack on the public's

right to free political expression and association - rights guaranteed under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Mammoliti is a member of Mayor Rob Ford's Executive and an aggressive advocate for Ford's agenda of privatization and confrontation with the city's labour and democratic movements.

Mammoliti has attacked more

than 300 City Hall deputants, asserting they were members of the Communist Party, after they stayed through the night and into the early hours to oppose the KPMG proposals to eliminate "gravy", including the closure of libraries, old age homes, 2,000 subsidized child care spaces; ending funding to cultural and arts groups including Caribana and Pride events, ending AIDS related funding, increasing transit fares and reducing service, and more.

Mammoliti has attacked Councillors who also oppose the cuts, alleging they are members of the Communist Party and that opposition to the KPMG cuts stems from Communist Party membership.

While the Communist Party is opposed to the cuts and is fighting them, opposition to this agenda includes members of almost all parties, save the Tories, and people who are not members of any party. Suggesting otherwise is a smear - something Mammoliti is expert at.

This is a witch-hunt aimed to intimidate widespread and growing public opposition to the levelling of public services and programs in the city, and to frighten Councillors into voting for deep cuts and privatizations against the demonstrated wishes of the public.

Mammoliti is attempting to do what Joe McCarthy did in 1950s USA - crush free speech and free political association in an effort to

crush opposition to this administration's far-right political direction... Red-baiting is part and parcel of this administration's attack on public services and on labour and democratic rights. It's a package. It's a dangerous combination that threatens all Toronto residents, and must be challenged.

With this in mind, the Communist Party is exploring legal action including a complaint to the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal, and is urging the labour and democratic movements and all those who support democratic and civil rights to speak up and demand an end to the witch hunt. ●

Save Toronto rallies: Sept. 10 & 26

The "Toronto Stop the Cuts" coalition will hold a mass meeting on Sat., Sept. 10 at Dufferin Grove Park (875 Dufferin, just north of College), starting at 1 pm. The meeting will discuss a "People's Declaration" set of demands. Coalition supporters will show up at City Hall on Sept. 26 (5:30 pm) to make sure that these demands are met when council votes on the future of the city.

Communist Party prepares for Manitoba election

By Darrell Rankin

The Communist Party in Manitoba will be fielding five candidates in the October 4 provincial election campaign. The NDP government will be seeking its fourth mandate since winning power in 1999 in a campaign that kicks off on September 6.

However, the NDP has alienated much of its base, by freezing wages, ending a tuition freeze, supporting the war in Afghanistan, and failing to stem the growth of poverty and the decline in better-paying jobs. As a result, the Conservatives are poised to make gains.

The Communist Party will campaign to block a Conservative victory which would spell greater disaster for working people and to back policies to create jobs, improve access to education and advance a broad range of democratic rights. ●

PV Fund Drive: Walk-A-Thon raises \$3500

As summer draws to a close, so does the annual People's Voice Fund Drive. Our next issue will include a report on the progress of the Drive, which has been bolstered by some successful fundraising events in recent weeks.

Once again, the biggest single activity was organized by the Lower Fraser Club CPC. Held in beautiful weather on Aug. 21, the 9th Annual Walk-A-Thon in Surrey's Bear Creek Park brought in about \$3,500, taking our British Columbia supporters a big step

towards reaching their \$20,000 target for this year.

Most of the pledges for the Walk-A-Thon were gathered by tireless PV supporters Krishna Syal and Harjit Daudharia, and some donations were also turned in at the event. Other supporters who made the Walk-A-Thon a success included Gurcharan Talewalia, who arrived in the early morning hours to reserve the picnic shelter tables, a number of comrades and friends who donated delicious items for the lunch, and Nazir Rizvi, who helped



Punjabi drummer Bobby got people up and dancing.

emcee the program as well as making his own generous financial contribution.

This year's Walk-A-Thon featured the best cultural program to date, highlighted by Bobby, a well-known drummer from the local Punjabi community. Bobby's musical artistry inspired a number of Walk-A-Thon participants to join in with their own dancing. Singer-songwriter Linda Chobotuck performed several of her beloved working class folk tunes, and Krishna delighted the crowd with her rendition of a traditional Indian song.

PV Editor Kimball Cariou and business manager Sam Hammond spoke briefly on the importance of the working class press in today's world, thanking the Lower Fraser Club and friends for their terrific fundraising, and for the delicious lunch. We look forward with great anticipation to next year's 10th Annual Walk-A-Thon! ●



Krishna Syal and Nazir Rizvi report on the pledge donations.



Sam Hammond thanks the Walk-A-Thon organizers.

"My Canada includes the Wheat Board"

By Darrell Rankin

More than two thousand wheat and barley farmers attended meetings across the prairies in August to discuss the fate of the Canadian Wheat Board. They came despite a threat by the Harper Conservatives to ignore the wishes of more than 68,000 farmers should they vote in a plebiscite to keep the CWB as a single-desk, farmer-run marketer.

The CWB directors will announce the results of the plebiscite on September 9. Now the main issue is to maintain the momentum and to stall legislation to kill the CWB.

The meetings were organized to give farmers a chance to hear from the elected directors and to express their views. Those attending were overwhelmingly in favour of keeping the CWB's single-desk mandate.

"People around the world will shake their heads if the Harper government destroys the Wheat Board," said one farmer in Camrose, Alberta.

Agriculture minister Gerry Ritz met with CWB chair Alan Oberg in May, revealing the Conservatives want to "take their political lumps" early in their mandate, well before the next election.

This is a critical time to build a broad coalition of popular forces to defend the Wheat Board. If all the coalitions and trade unions that defend sovereignty and Medicare, the CBC and other important Canadian institutions together say "My Canada includes the Wheat Board," that will be a huge step in blocking the dictatorial Conservative plan.

The effort should reach out to all groups that are largely self-governing, including professional groups that defend the right to decide how their industry is governed, and in which farmers play a role, even the Canadian Legion.

For the Conservative Party, this finishes its 19th century "National Dream" to colonize Western Canada and build a protected, agro-industrial economy. Ending the CWB would be a monumental sellout to the giant, mainly U.S.-owned corporations that dominate the global grain trade. It would also rid the Conservatives of a democratic group of farmers who could be part of the effort to build a more just society in Western Canada.

Within the Conservative Party, the voice of farmers is gone, replaced by resource and energy corporate interests which see no value or importance in Canadian agriculture, including their prairie heartland. The millions here and abroad who depend on Canadian wheat have a different view. ●



Farmers in Camrose line up to speak in favour of protecting the Wheat Board. (Photo by Darrell Rankin)

Here's my contribution to the PV Fund Drive!

Enclosed please find my donation of \$_____ to the 2011 People's Voice Press Fund Drive.

Name _____

Address _____

City/town _____

Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

Send your contribution to:

People's Voice, 706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3J1

"Labour-Farmer unity" needed to save Wheat Board

The Communist Party is urging a broad and strong fight to defeat the dictatorial Conservative Party plan to demolish the Canadian Wheat Board. Thousands of farmers turned out at meetings across the prairie provinces during August, most expressing their opposition to the Harper government's drive to gut the CWB by 2012.

In an Aug. 14 statement, the Party's Central Executive said that "Strong Labour-Farmer unity is needed now to save the family farm, to protect Canadian food sovereignty and to help end the domination of the global grain trade by the handful of corporations now responsible for mass famine and death throughout the world.

"Destroying the CWB as a single-desk seller of wheat and barley will be a fatal blow to thousands of family farms in Western Canada. It will accelerate the growth of mega-corporate farms at the expense of smaller farms.

"Most importantly, the main beneficiaries are the handful of corporations which now dominate the global grain trade. Removing the democratically-run CWB from the global grain trade will be an added incentive for global grain corporations to act as a monopoly-cartel with price-setting and hoarding of stocks.

"These corporations put profit ahead of the starving and malnourished millions. Cereal grain consumer prices are at a record high this year, matching those of 2008/09 when the top five grain corporations made a combined \$266

billion profit, a year with food hunger riots in 26 countries.

"The main fight now is to save the Canadian Wheat Board. But should the Harper Conservatives value their corporate accomplices more than millions of newly roused



and informed voters in Western Canada, we will support efforts to establish provincial marketing boards in provinces such as Manitoba that support democracy for farmers.

"The Communist Party welcomes the petition launched by the Manitoba government defending the Canadian Wheat Board. The government should state it is ready to replace the CWB at the provincial level should the Conservatives succeed in carrying through their threat. It is not enough to point an accurate finger of blame if you have the power to make real change.

"In this hour of need for the family farm and global food security, the labour movement must step forward. Since the defeat of Farmer-Labour governments in

Canada in the 1920s, the family farm has been under constant attack by the growing monopoly corporate price-cost squeeze and government policies such as ending the Crow Rate transportation subsidy.

"As a Party that has been part of the struggle for 90 years, we say the need for labour-farmer unity has never been greater.

"If you are a doctor or a lawyer or any other professional, governments mainly leave it up to you and your colleagues to figure out what happens in your industry. Not so with farmers. That is because an enormous amount of money made from agriculture ends up in the pockets of the big corporations.

"Farmers are working people, many with jobs off the farm. Sometimes these jobs are unionized. Since commercial farming started in Western Canada,

farmers have been the target of corporate plundering, at times sparking strong resistance by farmers.

"After the First World War the Progressive and other farmer political parties won power across Western Canada and in Ontario. These governments were supported by Labour politicians and became genuine Farmer-Labour governments which enacted measures that still protect farmers and Labour today.

"Such unity today will bring similar needed advances. This is the time to return to a strategy that worked in the past. It is the only strategy that has ever worked!

"The labour movement knows what it would be like if the federal government ripped up every collective agreement in Canada on the grounds that workers need to market their skills to a wider variety of employers. Many labour bodies

have passed resolutions of support for the CWB and single-desk selling.

"This is a strong basis for unity in the fight for the Canadian Wheat Board.

"The enormous fraud and rigging by the Conservative government in past Wheat Board related votes should never be repeated. This is a government that betrays its agenda by dropping smaller farmers from the voter rolls. It is a government that is moving to 'One Corporation - One Vote' at home and 'One Tank, One Vote' abroad.

"We support the idea of 'One farmer - One Vote' and votes for those who work the soil. Why should farm corporations be on a voter roll? We do not allow corporations the vote in other elections. All who work the soil should be able to vote on marketing issues." •

COPE strengthens Vancouver 10-year housing strategy

By Kimball Cariou

Debates this summer over a proposed ten-year housing and homelessness strategy for Vancouver highlighted both differences and points of agreement between the city's Coalition of Progressive Electors and the governing Vision party. The two groups have adopted an electoral cooperation agreement heading into the Nov. 19 civic election, hoping to block the right-wing Non-Partisan Alliance from regaining control of City Council and School Board. If they succeed, it would mark the first time in nearly 30 years that the NPA has been defeated in consecutive elections.

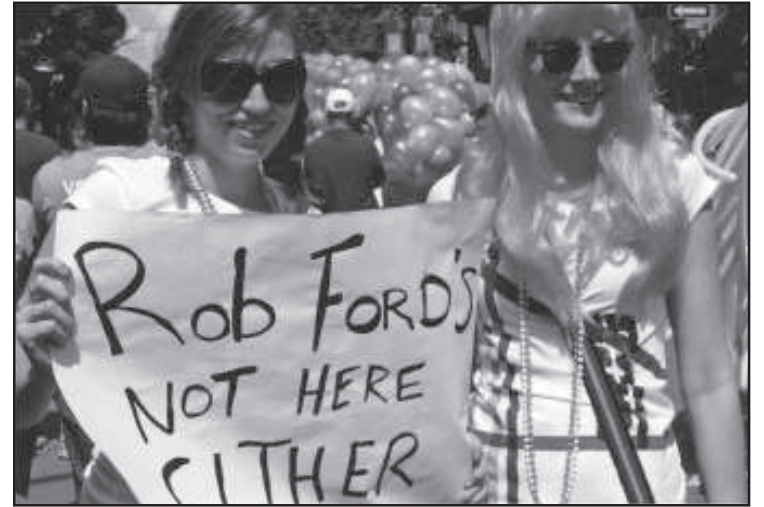
Housing remains a critical issue facing the Metro Vancouver region. The most recent homeless count, conducted in March 2011, found that 1872 homeless people were in the "sheltered" category across the region, up from 1086 on the same day in 2008. Another 731 were "unsheltered", down from 1532 in 2008. The overall total dropped slightly, reflecting efforts by local governments to increase temporary shelter spaces, but the underlying problem has not been resolved.

Homelessness advocates were encouraged by the recognition in a July staff report to Vancouver city council that housing affordability needs to be tackled from the supply side. The report notes that while about 30,000 market rate rental units were built in the 1960s, only 6160 units were built in the past decade. The report calls for the creation of 40,000 new rental units by 2021, 8900 of which would be subsidized housing.

This would help address the reality that Vancouver is one of the most unaffordable housing markets in the world. Housing ownership now takes 60-80% of an average household's income, far beyond the means of most working people in the city.

Responding to the staff report, COPE City Councillors Ellen Woodsworth and David Cadman warned that key parts of the plan must be strengthened.

"This report represents a good



Participants in the Coalition of Progressive Electors contingent at the Pride Parade in Vancouver stressed the need to block a Toronto-style right-wing takeover of city council. (Photo: K. Cariou)

first step," said Woodsworth, adding that key initiatives to drive affordability were lacking. "Working class families, seniors, and young people just can't afford to live in Vancouver any more. Where's the discussion around policies and measures to find solutions for them?"

"If this is going to be an aggressive plan to return real affordability to our city, we need to know how tools like inclusionary zoning and a city-run housing authority could work here," said Cadman. "Imagine a Vancouver without families, without a working class, without artists, and without seniors. That is exactly where we're headed unless we do something bold today."

Woodsworth called for Vancouver to lead a charge with other large cities to call for a joint federal, provincial, municipal campaign on housing issues. "This is the biggest homelessness and affordability crisis seen since the great depression. We need to treat it with all the urgency this situation demands."

On July 28, City Council passed two key amendments to the ten-year plan, put forward by Woodsworth and Cadman.

"We needed to see a real commitment to investigate innovative policies that drive affordability," said Cadman.

"We've done just that today with Council agreeing to look at inclusionary zoning, a city run housing authority, and increased funding for land purchases."

Cadman's amendment also directs staff to compile best practices for dealing with the preservation and creation of affordable housing from other jurisdictions, such as Toronto, New York, and London.

Woodsworth successfully called for Mayor Robertson as newly elected chair of the Big Cities Caucus to take a leadership role on a national housing campaign.

"We've been hearing for years how we as a city cannot get this job done without long-term Federal and Provincial funding commitments," said Woodsworth. "This amendment is the first step in seeing that happen."

Both councillors said the July 28 meeting shows the strength of cooperation and thoughtful discourse that has become the hallmark of COPE's approach to major challenges facing the city.

However, NPA councillor and mayoralty candidate Suzanne Anton voted no to the strategy. "First it was 'no' to bikes, then 'no' to the environment," said Woodsworth, commenting on Anton's voting record. "Now it's 'no' to affordable housing. It's shocking." •

NIAGARA NEWS BULLETIN

* Twenty injured Niagara workers and **OFL President Sid Ryan occupied Tory leader Tim Hudak's office in Beamsville** on Aug. 17. The action was part of a province-wide occupation (including Liberal MPP offices) to campaign for the quarter million Ontario injured workers forced to live below the poverty line.

* Provincial Health Minister Deb Matthews will appoint a **provincial supervisor for Niagara's hospitals**. The supervisor would go around the LHIN (Local Health Integration Network) which has been cutting emergency rooms in favour of a P3 (public-private partnership, i.e. for-profit) hospital at the other end of the region and also mismanaging a bacteria outbreak linked to over 30 deaths. Ontario Ombudsman Andre Marin, who has been critical of the LHINs, says the Niagara hospitals are now under his jurisdiction as well since the province has directly taken them over.

* **Niagara Falls residents have protested three bacteria outbreaks** including C-Difficile with several deaths where the outbreak was declared late. Health Minister Andrews denies that the cause is funding cuts, but adds that they will have to find the money to deal with the outbreaks and added housekeeping staff. Meanwhile the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions is campaigning to convince the province to spend more on outbreak prevention and control. The Niagara Health System (NHS) spokesperson said it was "standard practice" to not report outbreaks until they are over, and then was no longer employed as spokesperson while the NHS declared it had a "new corporate culture". One widow of an outbreak victim said her husband had "believed in the system, and the system let him down."

* The outbreaks were the excuse used by the Niagara Region government to reject Emergency Management Ontario's request to give **shelter to First Nations northern Ontario residents** escaping forest fires. The regional medical officer said the region's limitations are because of hospitals lacking enough beds, and not the outbreak. The Regional Chair later said any displaced people will be welcomed.

* The committee to develop a process for **probing the decision to close local emergency rooms** in favour of a P3 hospital over half an hour away has started after a long campaign by residents and elected officials. The committee is lopsided 2-1 in favour of the people who made the decision in the first place.

* A St. Catharines woman with a medicinal weed permit who was told by her doctor to cultivate her own crops was **evicted by the city** for having the plants in her apartment. She and supporters camped in protest outside the courthouse saying "This is Stephen Harper's law. This is his building. I'm living in his building." On the Attorney General's orders the police evicted her from the courthouse steps.

- (PV Niagara Bureau)

EDITORIALS

Layton, Turmel and Québec

The sudden death of Opposition Leader Jack Layton has shocked Canadians. While we frequently disagreed with Mr. Layton, he was seen by millions of NDP supporters as a voice for working people in a Parliament dominated since Confederation by the parties of big business. We extend our deepest condolences to his family and colleagues at this difficult moment.

A review of the NDP's record under Jack Layton may come later, but this is a suitable time to comment on the reaction to his final decision - the appointment of popular Québec trade unionist Nycole Turmel as interim NDP leader. The election of 59 NDP MPs in Québec did not reflect a truly fundamental shift in the outlook of working people, since the NDP and the Bloc Québécois have long shared many elements of a social democratic approach. Coming on the heels of the NDP's remarkable gains in Québec, Layton's move showed a desire to hold these advances in the next campaign.

However, some of the response to Turmel's appointment in English-speaking Canada has been appalling, to be blunt. Even as the NDP grapples with the "national question" - the reality that Québec constitutes a nation within the Canadian state - narrow-minded Anglo chauvinism has reared its ugly head. Turmel is a "closet separatist", howls the corporate media, pointing to her former memberships in the BQ and the left-wing Québec Solidaire party. The fact that Turmel also held an NDP card for many years is ignored, as is the complex debate within the QS, which is home to a wide range of views on solutions to the national question.

Such McCarthy-style attacks against those who do not share the Tory/Liberal federalist view of Canada have no place in a genuine, democratic debate; in fact, those screeching the loudest are selling out Canadian sovereignty to Yankee imperialism. The people of Québec (and the Aboriginal peoples) have the right of national self-determination - and also the democratic right to take part in Canadian political struggles. Period.

Labour Day greetings!

Many working people across North America will enjoy a well-deserved break on Labour Day. In the unceasing struggle between workers and bosses, every statutory holiday is a small but important victory against employers who seek to lengthen working hours in their drive to increase exploitation and profits.

But Labour Day also has a political side, even though its origins lie in attempts to undermine celebrations of May First, the international day of the worker. Many Labour Day picnics and parades express solidarity with workers engaged in strikes and other struggles against the bosses.

This year's Labour Day is a moment to weigh up the serious battles which lie ahead. The attack on the Postal Workers by Stephen Harper's Tory majority shows that working people face four years of escalating corporate/government assaults on labour rights. The aim of the Harper Tories is to smash the ability of workers to resist the corporate agenda in the workplace and in the legislative arena. Their ultimate goal is to lower union density in Canada from the current levels of around 30%, closer to the 10% in the United States.

Our response must be to build broad unity of organized labour with its allies: unorganized and unemployed workers, farmers, Aboriginal peoples, the movements of students, women, immigrants and seniors, anti-war and environmental groups, the Communists and other progressive forces, and other sections of the people fighting back against neoliberal policies. Only a fightback which draws all these forces into joint action can block the Harper Tories, and open the door to a wider struggle for a real People's Alternative to the corporate agenda.

PEOPLE'S VOICE

ISSN number 1198-8657 Published by New Labour Press Ltd.
Canadian Publications Mail Sales Product Agreement #40011632

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to Circulation Dept.,
People's Voice, 706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3J1
Tel: 604.255.2041 Email: pvoice@telus.net

Volunteers and contributors for this issue:

Asad Ali, Dave Arland, Ed Bil, Johan Boyden,
Wally Brooker, Carlos Bracons, Miguel Figueroa,
Sam Hammond, David Lethbridge, B. Prasant,
Darrell Rankin, Liz Rowley, and our mailers in
Vancouver & Toronto.

Editor: Kimball Cariou Business Manager: Sam Hammond

Editorial Board: Kimball Cariou, Miguel Figueroa,
Doug Meggison, Naomi Rankin, Liz Rowley, Jim Sacouman

LETTERS

People's Voice welcomes your letters. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity, and to refuse to print letters which may be libellous or which contain personal attacks. Send your views to: "Letters to the Editor"
706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3J1 or
pvoice@telus.net

People's Voice articles may be reprinted without permission provided the source is credited.

liverightnow.ca

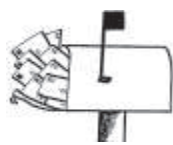


dieprettysoon.ca



s.mogensen.union-art.com

(See page 8 for information on the deadly effect of Canadian asbestos exports)



Letters to the Editor

Workers must send a message

The federal Tory response to the recent labour actions in Air Canada and Canada Post gives a very clear picture of the challenge facing workers in the struggle to sustain rights.

When Air Canada and other crown corporations were privatized under the Mulroney and Chretien governments, we were told government was "getting out of the business of being in business." Within hours of the recent strike of service workers, federal Minister of Labour, Lisa Raitt, announced legislation to force workers back to work. Strange how privatized corporations need government back "in business" to stop workers asserting their rights.

Canada Post workers, in spite of the fact that this crown corporation was not negotiating in good faith, structured the strike to minimize the disruption of service to customers. Service was completely cut off, not by the workers, but by the corporation. Of course, the post office did not need to negotiate in good faith. They knew full well the Tories would order workers back to work under even more unfavourable conditions than those offered by Canada Post.

The message the Tories are giving to workers is to bow down and submit to what is offered to you or face a punitive imposed settlement.

Capitalists have their unions such as the Canadian Banker's Association, Chambers of Commerce, Canadian Builder's Association or the so-called Canadian Federation of "Independent" Business (See FIB). These unions are strong and have supporters in government willing to jump at their every command. Workers need our unions to respond to the capitalist unions.

Clearly, failure to mount a strong response to anti-worker governments will only result in workers' rights being rolled back to what we suffered 100 and more years ago. While acting within the law and in an orderly fashion, workers must engage in militant struggle. This means beginning

with hard demands from which workers must not back down. Of course, Conservative/Liberal governments will respond saying, "let's work out a deal."

The answer must be, "Yes, and here is the deal: abolish union-busting legislation, outlaw hiring scabs (strikebreakers) when workers are in a legal strike, recognize the right to strike for all workers in nonessential services, require negotiation between workers and employers before a service can be declared 'essential' and then ensure a fair arbitration processes to resolve labour disputes in these services, and penalize employers determined by courts to be negotiating in bad

faith, by setting the union contract proposals as the contract for the next 12 months."

One thing more is needed. Business and corporations have departments of government who represent their interests, including Industry, Trade and Public Works. The Minister of Labour in any government must be responsible for representing the interests of workers, not ensuring workers are mere submissive servants. It is fair for workers to demand the resignation of any Labour minister who does not represent them - and the first to go must be Lisa Raitt.

Wayne Madden, Edmonton, AB

Clarity about exploitation

Clarence Torcoran's "Who's exploited, and does it matter?" in the July issue's Marxist Theory section makes a good point that exploitation is about the relationship to accumulating capital and not the physical working conditions or pay. But his claim that if some workers are exploited and others are not then this would mean capitalism can be reformed misses a major point of Marx's analysis. While the working class is exploited as a class, only workers who produce surplus value (anything commodified, including services) are exploited in the Marxist sense, and this matters because it shows us both the relationship between, for example, public sector and retail workers with manufacturing and service workers, and also helps us realize the true magnitude of the exploitation of the whole class.

Marx observed in *Theories of Surplus Value* "What a convenient arrangement it is that makes a factory girl to sweat twelve hours in a factory, so that the factory proprietor, with a part of her unpaid labour, can take into his personal service her sister as maid, her brother as groom and her cousin as soldier or policeman!"

The insight that some workers are exploited and their exploitation pays for the non-commodified services of other workers has nothing to do with one group of workers being more important or

needing more reforms, but helps us to understand where the wealth that we produce as a class comes from so that we can take it back from the capitalists. Torcoran said as much in his *People's Voice* article "Wages facing downward pressure" five years ago ("*Workers at the 'point of production' ... have the power to choke off the generation of profits*").

S. Saleh Waziruddin, Niagara Falls, ON

Renew today!

Check your label

Please check the address label on the front page to see if it's time to renew. Subscribers who find "2011/09/01" on their label, for example, will have their subscriptions expire with this issue, Sept. 1-15, 2011.

Don't miss a single copy - renew today!

Britain's riots: thuggery, looting, lawlessness... by the ruling class

By Finian Cunningham,
Global Research, August
11, 2011

After a conflagration of arson attacks, riots and looting in several British cities, there is a sense of order having been restored from a massive mobilisation of police forces.

There now follows the tracking down and prosecution of individuals involved in the mayhem. The Prime Minister is leading "the fight back" to punish anyone who has inflicted damage and destruction to Britain's society.

The events have visibly shocked the political establishment of all parties, police chiefs and the mainstream media. But what should be more shocking is the myopic and incredibly banal commentary that is being offered to "explain" the outburst of street disturbances and violence.

As pundits sit in comfy television studios trading inane insights about the "evils" of individual immorality, criminality, dysfunctional families, gang culture - in the background, so to speak, are the glaring signs scrolling across the screens of the cause of this societal breakdown. And yet the preponderant signs escape the mental radar of pundits and politicians alike.

The fact that the capitalist economic system is in worldwide meltdown is not even registered in the mainstream commentary. This is the system that the mainstream political parties have facilitated and fawned over, whether Labour, Conservative or Liberal, and which has resulted in social devastation across Britain while the corporate

and financial elite has ransacked economic resources. This system of legalised looting has been going on for decades, but certainly took on a precipitous dynamic starting with Cameron's Conservative predecessor Margaret Thatcher in the early 1980s. Labour's Tony Blair and Gordon Brown were merely purveyors of the same dynamic.

In surveying today's Britain, Karl Marx's words are so right: "An accumulation of wealth at one pole of society indicates an accumulation of misery and overwork at the other". That is the hallmark of capitalism in today's Britain, the US and Europe.

All other problems are largely secondary in causation. Crime, racist policing, disorder, the lack of police budgets to restore order (so ironic), alienation and self-destruction, and so many other ills including the mobilisation of resources to fund illegal wars - most of our present day problems flow from the tap root of dysfunction that is the capitalist economy.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Prime Minister Cameron's "explanation" for the outbreak of street disturbances demonstrates a total ignorance and poverty of understanding on his part of the nature of the breakdown in his society. He blames it on "criminality pure and simple" and "pockets of sickness" and "lack of individual morality and responsibility".

This view is largely echoed in the British political establishment of all parties and the media.

The looting, thievery and lawlessness that Cameron so condemns is but the reflection at

the street level of British society of what is taking place on a much greater scale at the upper echelons of government and the economy.

Despite the appearance of pinstripe suits and well-groomed accents, we can, if we are honest, see decades of looting and thievery of economic and financial resources by corporate elites aided and abetted by Labour and Conservative governments. The taxpayer bailout of corrupt banks initiated by Labour PM Gordon Brown and now overseen by Cameron, paid for in large part by austerity in public spending cuts, is but the latest manifestation of official robbing of the majority to swell the already outrageous wealth of the ruling elite class.



What recently transpired in the UK unearthed a hidden malady of racism and hypocrisy. We used to believe that the UK is an ideal society that promotes and protects human rights, prosperity and equality. We goofed... Had this happened in Africa, it would be highly touted as revolution and thirst for human rights. Riots resulting from police shooting, poverty, racism, unemployment, even corruption are mainly experienced in third world countries, which Britain is not. (From the website <http://afrospear.com>)

Cameron and his gang of plummy-accented thugs are gunning for \$150 billion in public spending cuts to pay for the criminal enterprise known as British banking. This is racketeering that a street gang in London's east end can only marvel at... and indeed, in a very real way, only emulate.

Combined with that looting by the elite we see the total lawlessness and criminality of British governments who have worked hand in glove with other criminal governments to launch wars of aggression (Nuremburg standard war crimes) in Afghanistan, Iraq, and now Libya, resulting in the deaths of over one million civilians. Where is individual responsibility for that

mass murder and destruction, Mr. Cameron?

This social decay and necrotism is a symptom of the collapse of capitalism, an economic system that enriches an elite at the cost of the majority. It polarises political power beyond democratic accountability to the point where, among other deformities, wars and planetary looting are being carried out even blatantly against the consent of the majority public.

So when Cameron and his political cronies fulminate about pockets of sickness, looting, criminality, lawlessness, and the need for "consequences for actions" - his words and exhortations are so richly ironic and benighted.

For he is inadvertently describing the very society and world that capitalism creates in its own image. The indoctrination of Cameron's mind and that of the entire political establishment prevents them from seeing the inferno for the sparks. An inferno that the government of Cameron and his Labour predecessors, and in other western countries, have been dousing fuel on with their slavish policies aiding and abetting capitalist kleptocracy, both at home and abroad.

The real lessons from Britain will not dawn on, never mind be drawn on, by mainstream politicians or media. And the same can be said for the US and other western countries. To paraphrase a slogan used by former US President Clinton: "It's the capitalist economy, stupid."

Finian Cunningham is a correspondent based in Belfast, Ireland. •



Marxist Theory

Egyptian Spring, English Summer

By Sam Hammond

In the wake of uprisings and riots this year, from Cairo to London, there has been much talk of alienation.

Most people think that alienation is the result of neglect. That can indeed be the case, such as an indifferent parent or a negligent friend. But social alienation in its most general sense is a phenomenon with roots in the relations of class and strata within exploiting society.

A stand-alone feature of exploiting societies, basic alienation is the separation of the producers from the products of their labour. Slave, serf or worker, only the form changes.

If this is so, then there must be "alienators" and "alienated", each with a class identity. Social strata can and do form sections of classes, are classless, or can bridge classes with feet planted on either side, in a fluid, shifting, economically propelled movement from acquisition to dispossession.

The separation of human beings from what they produce requires a complex package of historically developed instruments of economic coercion, fear, imposed ignorance, and a set of laws enforced by the ruling class instrument, the state.

To maintain this kind of control

and alienation in capitalist society, and also to have a domestic market, the exploiting class must pay wages to purchase the labour power of the working class, so it can purchase its means of subsistence back from them. Simply stated, re-purchasing what you have produced and what has been expropriated from you.

This very simple and correct analysis is the basis of the finite social relationships and complexities of modern imperialism, and the complex expressions of alienation between classes and strata in society. It is also true that the producers can never buy back all that they produce, so as a market they are too small to sustain their capitalists. Witness the historical appearance of colonialism and imperialism to capture cheap labour and expanded markets.

Because of the phenomena of relative "overproduction" and "financialization" under advanced imperialism, the alienation of youth is escalating at a completely predictable pace. The irreconcilable contradiction that defines capitalism - the inability of the masses to purchase the goods they produce - has almost destroyed the "real" economy of manufacturing and commodity production.

Real wealth can only come from a real economy. The transfer of

investment in real production to the trading in paper, in interest, in the purchase and sale of debt itself, has brought us to this stage of imperialism, to privation, hunger, disease and war. Hundreds of millions of workers have become surplus, unwanted humanity with no hope, no future and no purchasing power.

When millions of workers are surplus, the most experienced are maintained as a reserve core, and some youth are recruited for "McJobs" at less than subsistence wages. Even fewer are highly trained and well rewarded technicians. The majority are in the surplus pool. For older workers this is where they have arrived.

To understand the intensity of the alienation of youth and its "so-called" anti-social behaviour, it must be understood that millions of youth do not arrive at unemployment, privation, homelessness and social redundancy; they start there. The hopelessness of being born into a world that has no real place for you does not breed compliance, social responsibility and worship for the laws of the capitalist state. You cannot alienate, subjugate, disenfranchise, disallow and demean people, then expect them to behave like ladies and gentlemen at a bourgeois tea party.

Millions of youth have been

alienated from the means of production itself, from the mainstream of social existence, even from the class that most of their parents belong to. This is not the alienation of parental neglect, but the objective disposal by the ruling classes of surplus labour, the expulsion of our own children from the economic lever, strength and nurturing that working people employ in their mutual struggle to survive.

This is a dangerous separation, because classless people quickly lose the culture of class consciousness and the pragmatism of class unity and struggle. Add to this strata of classless youth the elements of the ruined petty bourgeois, the victims of cannibalistic monopoly capital who have no cultural loyalty to the workers and no tradition of disciplined struggle. The mix can produce exactly what we are witnessing in England, or the more disciplined struggles of the Chilean students, the Greeks, the Egyptians or the heroic Palestinians.

It all depends on time, place and the class forces at work: who leads and who follows.

The hypocrisy of the English Prime Minister, miffed about a shortened holiday, lecturing about social responsibility and the preservation of property, is

laughable. Witness the selected flunky of the ruling class, backed by the media lecturing the victims on their social behaviour.

The British capitalist class and their bankers, like their compatriots everywhere, have plundered the coffers of their own state to the point of bankruptcy. With their imperialist partners (including Canada), they have stolen and privatized the property of the people and killed millions all over the world, in a bloodbath of lies, murder and greed. While overseeing this, they languish in their spas, attend royal shindigs, indulge in orgies of drugs and privilege. From pulpit and platform they scream and shudder in fear of the stirrings of a generation that might not be governable.

Their answer is to release the paramilitary forces they have been preparing, and the army if necessary, to extend their rule during periods of social awakening. The symbol of their repression, recruited from our ranks, wears helmet, bullet-proof vest, body armour, gun belt, Plexiglas shield and truncheon. The symbol of revolt is the hoodie.

The state will temporarily prevail in this one-sided contest, because they are at war with a strata and not a class. But the

see ALIENATION, p. 11

Global financial turbulence spreading

From a commentary by Sitaram Yechury, head of the International Department, Communist Party of India (Marxist), Aug. 18, 2011

The turbulence that has gripped the world's financial markets has again sharply illustrated the fact that global capitalism, a system based on exploitation, can never be crisis free. However, irrespective of the intensity of the crisis, capitalism never collapses on its own. It needs to be overthrown. This requires the strength of the working class leading all exploiting classes through the sharpening of class struggle to lead the revolutionary transformation to overthrow capitalism. In the meanwhile, capitalism emerges from its self-created crisis by further intensifying exploitation. This is precisely what is happening today.

Following the downgrading of US sovereign long term credit rating by Standard & Poor from AAA level, world stock exchanges went into a tailspin. Major banks saw the biggest declines in their stocks. Some stock exchanges, including India's sensex, have since shown some improvement. This, however, may only be transitory and, in any case, such fluctuations are the reflection of the current turbulence.

These developments have generated panic with the *London Economist* predicting a double-dip global recession led by the USA. The simultaneous sovereign credit crisis in the Eurozone has seen the virtual insolvency of Greece, Ireland and Portugal, who had to be bailed out by huge packages. The crisis is now threatening Spain and Italy and is unlikely to stop there.

However, it will be wrong to characterise these developments as

a new phase of the global economic crisis. In a sense this is a continuation of the financial crisis that began in 2007 leading up to a recession. This was only to be expected given the manner in which global capitalism sought to overcome the crisis that began in 2007.

By undertaking huge and unprecedented bailout packages for those very corporates who, in the first place, caused the financial meltdown, developed countries

House oversight committee says, "Since the onset of the financial crisis in 2007, the federal government, through many agencies, has implemented dozens of programmes that are broadly designed to support the economy and the financial system. The total potential federal government support could reach up to \$23.7 trillion." Compare this with USA's GDP which is just over \$14 trillion. As of May 16 this year, the total

The Republicans, whose concurrence was essential to raise the ceiling, demanded their pound of flesh. While insisting that the tax benefits for the rich that began during the George Bush era be continued, the Republicans put a condition for agreeing to increase the debt ceiling only if severe cuts were effected in expenditures that were essentially aimed at benefiting the poor and the needy such as Medicare.

Similar is the logic of the sovereign bailout packages offered by the IMF and the EU in the Eurozone. Countries like Greece had to undertake massive "austerity measures" to cut expenditures. This has imposed an unprecedented burden on the working people, whose remunerations have been drastically cut. During the last two years, Greece has seen 17 general strikes nationwide. Germany, widely seen as the economic powerhouse of the European Union and expected to pull other Eurozone countries out of crisis, is itself showing signs of an economic slowdown. Its index of manufacturing activity dropped to 52 in July, the lowest level since October 2009. This is the third consecutive month of decline. Analysts have said that the main source of worry for Germany is that the "sources of domestic demand are not manifesting itself."

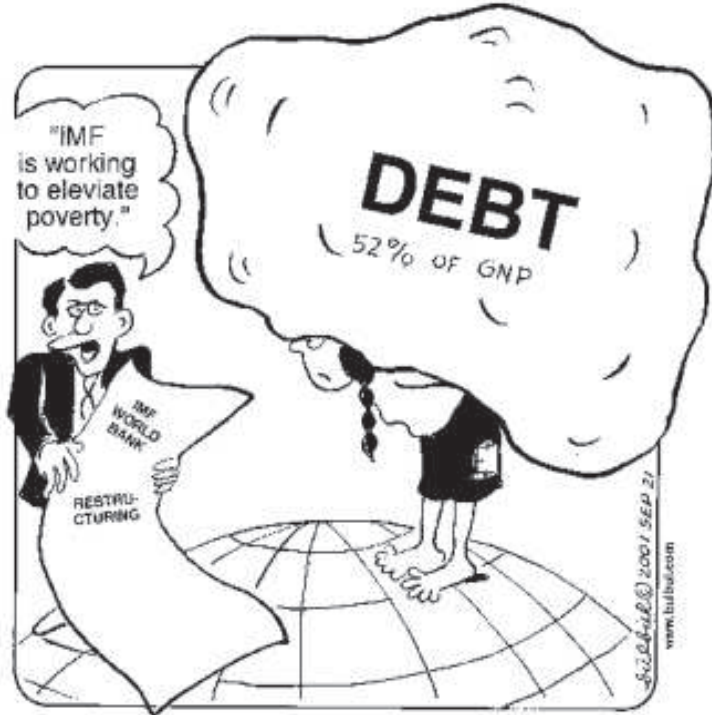
What is happening is the following: The capitalist State mobilises resources for huge bailout packages. In the process, it accumulates massive sovereign debt. The burden of this debt is transferred on to the shoulders of the working people through massive cuts in welfare and social security expenditures. This is the logic of capitalism, pure and simple: maximize profits by intensifying exploitation.

In the USA, corporate profits accounted for 14% of the total

national income in 2010, the highest ever recorded. Corporate profits have been expanding for the last ten consecutive quarters. In the process, all corporates have accumulated mind-boggling cash reserves. Apple alone has cash reserves of \$72 billion, more than the GDP of half the countries in world. Microsoft and Google together have cash reserves of more than \$100 billion. Similar is the story with other corporates. At the other end of the spectrum, the USA has today an unemployment rate of close to 10%.

This situation is not confined only to turbulence in global finance. It has laid the seeds of a more fundamental crisis. As the burden of sovereign debt is passed on to the common people, their purchasing power correspondingly declines. Combined with the growth of unemployment, this leads to a sharp contraction in domestic demand. Further, this global crisis has drastically reduced global trade. Germany, for instance, saw its exports fall sharply in June to a growth rate of only 3.1% compared to 20.1% in May.

Under such circumstances, the manner in which the USA has handled its debt ceiling issue impacts not only its domestic economy but the global economy. With the contraction of domestic demand in all the major economic powers, save China, the contraction of GDP in all these countries is inevitable. This, in turn, will lead to a further contraction in governmental revenues, imposing further debt. The servicing of this would lead to imposing further burdens on the people. This vicious cycle has been set in motion, imposing unprecedented burdens and misery on the people. This would lead to many ugly manifestations of social tension like the spreading riots of looting in the UK. ●



incurred huge amounts of debts. Global capitalism sought to overcome the crisis by converting corporate insolvencies into sovereign insolvencies. This, in turn, has intensified the crisis today, plunging the world economy into a state of uncertainty.

The Special Inspector General for the US government's financial bailout programmes, created to serve as an auditor of the federal bailout, in a prepared testimony delivered to the US Congress

US debt was pegged at \$14.3 trillion. The USA has an anachronistic law, adopted in 1917, that puts a ceiling on the magnitude of debt in absolute terms. This is unlike in Europe or in India where the size of the fiscal deficit (different from debt) is fixed as a percentage of the GDP. This ceiling, however, was routinely revised upwards in US history. Given the current debt crisis, it was presumed that the tradition of this routine will continue. However, this was not to be.

The class nature of the debt "crisis"

By Anna Pha, from the *Guardian*, weekly newspaper of the Communist Party of Australia (abridged)

The world's largest financial institutions are waging an all out assault on what is commonly referred to as the welfare state, on the sovereignty of governments, on democratic and workers' rights. The vehicle being used to slash welfare payments and pensions, cut health and other services, sack public servants, reduce their wages and working conditions is the "debt crisis".

Governments that have amassed large debts are now being stood over by global financial monopolies (the most powerful, corrupt, speculative and parasitic form of capital) to wind them back. They are being subjected to credit squeezes and threatened with downgradings by private, unaccountable rating agencies. In the US, the approval of Congress was required to extend the government's debt limit or face defaulting on loans.

The European Central Bank, the International Monetary Fund, financial institutions and the

ratings agencies are placing demands on Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and Italy to make savage budget cuts to social spending. Belgium looks set to be the next country in line for the same treatment. Not all governments needed much pressure: the stand-over tactics provided the excuse they needed to sell highly unpopular austerity programs to unwilling electorates.

The battle and concessions made to gain US Congress approval to increase the limit on US government borrowings has strong parallels with developments in the European Union. Questions are being raised as to how hard Obama really fought what appears to have been a highly stage-managed crisis.

There is no doubt a number of these governments have accumulated large debts which have become a drain on the public purse to continue servicing. In part, the debts are due to the multi-billion dollar bailouts of financial institutions and corporations during the global financial crisis and subsequent economic crisis. According to

Michael Hudson, the US government has spent US\$13 trillion in financial bailouts since Lehman Brothers failed in September 2008. ("The debt ceiling set for progressive repealing",



Global Research, 29-7-2011)

But the bailouts are not the only contributing factor. Military budgets have remained quarantined from serious cuts, in particular in the US where 48 percent

of the annual budget is drained by military spending and servicing debt on it. The governments of all of these countries have pursued neo-liberal economic policies, privatising public enterprises and providing the corporate sector with generous handouts. Privatisation has resulted in loss of income. They have also set about cutting the taxation of corporate profits and incomes of the rich.

It is no accident that the actions being directed by the financial institutions and ratings agencies, without exception, fail to address the causes of government indebtedness and focus on austerity measures.

The very agencies that caused the global financial crisis, that governments bailed out, are now standing over governments to make pensioners, workers and their families pay yet again. Private debt was converted into public debt during the crisis, and now the public are expected to repay it to the criminals who brought on the crisis. Pension and other cuts will see millions impoverished,

homeless, jobless and with no access to basic health care.

Instead of increasing the taxation of corporate profits and the rich and cutting military expenditure (which would make the world a safer place), cuts are being imposed on ordinary working people and their families. The cuts are highly contractionary. They will reduce the spending power of workers and pensioners, and will only drive economies deeper into recession with many more workers losing their jobs.

Every one of these governments has other options to reduce their debts. Yet they are putting up little or no resistance. Consistent with their adherence to neo-liberalism, they are all too readily bowing to the market gods.

The standover tactics of financial institutions, dictating to elected governments how much to repay and what cuts to make, is an outright attack on the sovereignty of nation states and a further restriction on their democratic processes.

The sovereignty of nation states has already been severely undermined by free trade

Tragic anniversaries: 1973 and 2001

People's Voice commentary

This issue of People's Voice marks the anniversary of two highly significant events which took place on September 11: the U.S.-backed fascist coup against Chile's Popular Unity government in 1973, which destroyed democracy and killed thousands in that country, and the terrorist attacks within the United States itself in 2001.

In each case, the progressive and democratic movements in Canada responded immediately, to mobilize solidarity and warn of the dangers posed by these events. Rallies and protests across Canada in the fall of 1973 condemned the Pinochet coup, helping to force the Liberal federal government to allow many exiles to escape the fascist terror which engulfed Chile.

Over the past 38 years, during the military dictatorship and then decades of neoliberal governments, Canadians have continued to express solidarity with the people's movements in Chile. We have also learned much from the courageous struggles of the Chilean people for social justice and human rights. The Chilean community in Canada, today estimated at some 50,000, has made a contribution far beyond its size to the movements for social change in this country. On September 11, we join in paying tribute to President Allende and his comrades, whose defiance of U.S. imperialism during the Popular Unity years of 1970-73 became a beacon to the peoples of the world.

The mainstream media will instead focus on the 2001 attacks against the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon. Once again, the official message will be that the 3000 who died in those attacks were heroic victims of terrorism, while the millions killed and wounded by the U.S. and its allies

in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Palestine over the past decade are ignored.

One result of the events of Sept. 11, 2001, was a massive flowering of anti-war and anti-racism movements. A wide range of forces - trade unions, faith groups, social justice organizations, students, women, racialized communities and many more - came together in the days and months after 9/11 to resist the drive towards war, racism and fascism. The largest single day of public action in human history took place on Feb. 15, 2003, as some 15 million people took to the streets around the world to condemn the build-up for war against Iraq.

But the post-9/11 years have been a decade of aggressive attacks by imperialism. Faced with deepening economic and social crises, and by mounting popular opposition, the U.S. and the other imperialist powers have increasingly resorted to war and repression.

Unfortunately, many social democratic parties and governments succumbed to this reactionary agenda. But some

Once again, the official message will be that the 3000 who died in those attacks were heroic victims of terrorism, while the millions killed and wounded by the U.S. and its allies in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Palestine over the past decade are ignored.

political forces stood by their principles, despite intense pressures to retreat or keep silent.

A look back at the immediate response to 9/11 by the Communist Party of Canada is highly revealing. On Sept. 12, as the forces of fascism and war demanded full support for U.S. imperialism, the CPC issued a public statement condemning the demands for "retaliatory attacks"



February 15, 2003: a scene from the huge anti-war rally in Toronto, one of hundreds around the world as the U.S. geared up for its illegal aggression against Iraq. (PV photo: Ed Bil)

and removal of civil liberties.

Like its fraternal parties in other countries (such as Cuba), the Communist Party of Canada condemned the Sept. 11 attacks, expressing sorrow and grief. "Acts of terrorism undermine the struggle for progressive change," the CPC pointed out. "They sideline and

neutralize the mass movement, create fear and disorientation in the broad people's fightback, and provide imperialism and reaction with a powerful pretext to intensify repression."

At the same time, the CPC stressed the reality of "growing anger and resentment around the world. Three-quarters of humanity are forced to tolerate the rampaging

spread of mass poverty, economic plunder and social disparity in their respective countries; and they must do so under conditions imposed upon them by a handful of dominant imperialist powers led by the United States, and including Canada and the other leading capitalist countries. When countries and peoples have refused to succumb to dictates from Washington, they have fallen victim to U.S.-organized state terrorism, from Cuba and Chile to Iraq and Yugoslavia..."

The CPC warned against the "grave danger that ... the U.S. Administration will launch so-called 'retaliatory' attacks against certain countries or movements around the world. We call upon the peace forces across Canada and throughout the world to mobilize to prevent a unilateral military response by the U.S., and instead to demand a political solution to this festering problem..."

"The CPC will strongly oppose any attempt internationally or domestically to use this tragic

episode as a justification to limit democratic rights including the rights to assembly, privacy, legal due process or extend repression against the people," the statement continued. "The Communist Party condemns tendencies in the mainstream press to 'scapegoat' Arab Canadians in the wake of these terrorist acts, and will strenuously combat any and all attempts to victimize or marginalize any national, ethnic, religious or political minority or community in Canada. We call on all labour, progressive and democratic forces to defend democracy and the cause of peace, and oppose all attacks on these principles in the name of 'fighting terrorism'."

As the Communists warned, less than a month later, Canada joined the United States in launching the deadly occupation of Afghanistan, which has extended to the horrific "drone war" against Pakistan.

While public opinion blocked the Chretien Liberals from full participation in the 2003 invasion of Iraq, Canada gave logistical and tactical assistance to this U.S./British war. Canada also gives full support to the brutal Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. In total, these bloody military campaigns have cost over a million lives.

Back in Canada, the years since 2001 have seen a relentless push to restrict civil liberties and free speech, and to build up the state's military, espionage, prison and policing systems.

On September 11, Canadians will have much to consider. This is not a day to praise our "heroic troops". It is a day to demand to bring the troops home, to protect and expand democratic freedoms, and to reverse the accumulation of wealth and power conducted by the ruling class under the cloak of "fighting terrorism." ●

Tory drive falters as Ontario election begins

PV Ontario Bureau

Tim Hudak's drive to win a majority in Ontario hit a snag in August. New polls show the Tories lost some support after an anti-abortion group publicized a petition Hudak had signed opposing abortion rights and demanding the de-funding of insured abortion services.

While ultra-conservatives were crowing, the public was not amused. For the first time the juggernaut seems to be stalled.

As well, the shenanigans at Toronto City Hall by Mayor Rob Ford and his right-wing majority have started a big movement to stop the cuts proposed by KPMG, brought in to audit the books and "find the gravy". Not surprisingly, there is no gravy. KPMG's proposed cuts include complete privatization of garbage and other municipal services, sell-off of city owned housing and old-age homes, elimination of 2,000 subsidized child care spaces, an end to support for the city's vibrant arts and culture scene including Caribana and Pride events, and the closing and/or privatization of some public

libraries, among other things. Increased user fees and property taxes are also on the table, as Ford manipulates the city's chronic revenue shortfalls to make the case for "smaller government".

Behind privatization is the attack on unions who deliver the services in Toronto. Collective agreements for nearly 24,000 inside and outside workers expire Dec. 31, and the Ford administration has announced massive layoffs if city workers don't take the exit packages offered.

Margaret Atwood jumped into the fray to defend libraries and public services, mobilizing her 250,000 Twitter followers to do the same. The July deputations to City Council numbered about 300, though only 166 were actually heard in a marathon meeting that finally adjourned at 7 am the next morning.

Georgio Mammoliti - a member of Ford's Executive Committee and its attack dog - accused deputants of all being communists. Then he upped the ante, accusing "6 or 7" City Councillors of being Communist Party members who take their direction from regular

lunches with CPC (Ontario) leader Liz Rowley.

The CPC (Ontario) called Mammoliti's red-baiting "a witch-hunt aimed to intimidate widespread and growing public opposition to the levelling of public services and programs in the city, and to frighten Councillors into silence and stampede them into voting for deep cuts and privatizations against the demonstrated wishes of the public."

The answer to Mammoliti and the Ford administration is to galvanize public opposition, reject red-baiting, and defeat the cuts.

A massive demonstration will take place at City Hall on the eve of the September budget vote. Meantime, mass lobbying to pry Councillors away from Ford's budget cuts is underway. The Labour Council, OFL, CUPE, One Toronto, and a bevy of community and democratic organizations are involved in the budget fight, as well as in the bigger battle: will Toronto be a city with or without services, social housing, child care, old age homes, public transit, and unionized municipal workers?

Last fall's love affair with the

Meet the Communist Candidates in the Ontario Election!



**Election Rally: 7 pm, Sat., September 17
GCDO Hall - 290 Danforth Ave., Toronto
(Chester subway)**

Put People Before Profits! Block the Right!

Food, Cash Bar, Music.... Everyone Welcome

416-469-2446 for info

right-wing populist Mayor and his cronies is over, as the real agenda emerges in startling Tory blue clarity.

At Ford's annual August BBQ, special guest Stephen Harper said he hoped to "complete the hat trick" and turn Ontario Tory blue in the Oct. 6 election. It's starting to dawn on electors across the province that voting Tory may not be such a good idea.

A wise conclusion. Among other things, the Tories promise to bring "law and order" to Ontario with new super-jails, a two-strike law, prisoner chain gangs to do the

jobs of public sector workers, a lifetime ban on welfare recipients convicted of fraud, new police powers to remove Aboriginal people by force from land reclamation sites, social program and public service cuts, and a new law to prohibit unions from engaging in political and social action.

The Communist Party has identified the Tories as the main danger to working people in this campaign. Although the public is justly angry at the Liberals who

see ONTARIO, page 11



GLOBAL CLASS STRUGGLE

Income gap wider in New Zealand

Top chief executives in New Zealand are paid up to 50 times as much as their average employees - and the gulf is widening. The survey by *BusinessDay* compared pay rates at 34 companies on the NZ stock exchange.

The survey estimates that, on average, a chief executive's pay in 2010 was just over 18 times that of an average worker at the same company. Nine years ago a similar measure was tracked by Otago University researcher Helen Roberts, who found chief executive pay was 15.2 times the national average worker income. Telecom boss Paul Reynolds was the highest earner with an annual salary of \$4.74m.

Council of Trade Unions president Helen Kelly called on well-paid bosses whose workers earned low wages to "reconsider their values". Employees need access to better collective bargaining to improved employment conditions, she said, and a law should be introduced to allow collective contracts to be adopted across an industry as the standard.

"We just saw the rich-list people grow their wealth by 20 per cent and wages are moving less than 2 per cent. Now the top 1 per cent of New Zealanders hold more wealth than the bottom 60 per cent. The pay gap is the moral question of our time. Not just the gap but the level of pay means many, many workers ... are living in poverty."

New union laws coming in Egypt

Egypt's Cabinet has approved legislation to eliminate constraints imposed on trade unions under Law No. 35 (1976), which govern the Egyptian Trade Union Federation (ETUF).

Workers have been hesitant to believe the new Cabinet's sincerity in advocating union freedoms, particularly after Prime Minister Sharaf's government enacted legislation criminalising strikes and protests in March. "We are waiting for the new law to be promulgated or else the next trade union elections won't be serious and the steps undertaken against the state-controlled ETUF won't be very significant," says Ali Fatouh, president of the Independent Union for Public Transportation Workers.

Egyptian labour was crucial in the lead up to the Jan. 25 uprising, via waves of strikes beginning in 2006. The ouster of Hosni Mubarak on Feb. 11 came after a concerted strike effort in the final days of his rule. At the core of workers' demands has been dissolution of the government-controlled ETUF, formed in 1957 under Gamal Abdel Nasser.

An important step came on August 4 when the administration of the ETUF was dissolved. A 25-member steering committee, appointed by the manpower minister, will run the federation until elections take place, as stipulated by Egyptian law. Elections should take place within 60 days following the federation's dissolution, but can be delayed if

more time is needed. Due to parliamentary elections, the poll, as they were for local councils, will most likely be postponed until afterwards.

In the fight for union freedoms, many workers and union leaders began forming their own independent unions. The EITUF brought together the first independent unions during the 18-day uprising, announcing its formation on March 2.

The steering committee has a medley of members from across the political spectrum, including:



former ETUF board members, EITUF unionists, leftist activists and lawyers, members of the Muslim Brotherhood and counsellors from the manpower ministry.

Bahraini unionists on hunger strike

Jaleela Al-Salman, Vice President of the Bahrain Society for teachers, and Rula Al-Safar, President of the Bahrain Nursing Society, have begun a hunger strike to protest their "illegitimate detention" in prison along with hundreds of teachers, doctors, and nurses.

Many activists, professionals and unionists in Bahrain have been subject to arbitrary arrest, physical and psychological abuse, torture, dismissal from their jobs, and prosecuted at military and later at civilian courts. The two female unionists have reportedly been ill-treated in detention and are expected to be sentenced with false accusations. They were arrested on March 29 and their hunger strike started August 2.

Ms. Al-Salman, the Vice President of the Bahrain Society for Teachers, is a 46-year-old mother of three. She was a deputy manager in Saba Secondary School. She has faced pressure to resign her union position, but continued to advocate for the rights of her colleagues and students.

Leaders of the teachers were targeted for their calls to strike, first on Feb. 20 as a protest against the brutal crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in the Pearl Roundabout, and later on March 14 after incidents in schools put students and teachers at great risk.

Following the March 16 attack on the Pearl Roundabout - Bahrain's Tahrir Square - family members and fellow detainees say Al-Salman was beaten and kicked, verbally abused and insulted, made to stand facing the wall for nights and forced to clean toilets.

The government controlled by King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has

fired thousands of teachers for their refusal to support the regime in their classrooms.

The second hunger-striker is Rula Al-Saffar, President of Bahrain Nursing Society. Doctors and nurses were another specific target of the clampdown, for providing medical care to Bahrainis injured in the anti-Hamad demonstrations. The government raided the main hospital, kidnapped the injured, arrested doctors and nurses, and prevented them from treating the sick.

The Guardian reports that British PM David Cameron has greeted the crown prince of Bahrain, who also conferred with US State and Defense Department officials, and all the way up to President Obama. Two senior US military officials recently visited Bahrain, which is home to the US Fifth Fleet.

Asbestos still kills millions

The use of asbestos building materials in developing countries results in millions of cancer cases, a U.S. doctor reports in the *Annals of Epidemiology*. Dr. Marty Kanarek, a faculty member in the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, is an expert on mesothelioma, a cancer of the lining of the lungs and abdominal cavity that can occur more than 50 years after exposure. Most victims worked around asbestos, a fire-retarding mineral that was used in brake linings, insulation and building materials. Exposure also causes other cancers of the lung, larynx, and gastrointestinal tract and a chronic lung inflammation known as asbestosis. Worldwide it is the cause of about 10 million deaths; in the United States, it is blamed for 131,200 cancer deaths between 1985 and 2009.

The link between asbestos and health problems has been known for a century. But Kanarek says the industry obscured the issue by claiming that the illnesses were only caused by a rarely used type of asbestos, and not by chrysotile or "white" asbestos, which accounts for about 95% of world production and use. Countries such as Canada continue to mine asbestos, but ship it overseas because its use is banned at home.

Kanarek reviewed dozens of studies of mesothelioma, ranging from those among miners in Zimbabwe, brake workers in the United States, cement pipe factory workers in Egypt, and many others. He concludes that chrysotile asbestos is associated with mesothelioma cases around the world.

Kanarek concludes, "Today there are many safer, cheaper substitute materials available, so the time is long past for a worldwide asbestos ban."

Worker co-ops reduce Argentine unemployment

During the economic collapse of 2002-2003, the Argentine state encouraged the formation of workers' cooperatives, which helped mitigate the worst effects of the crisis. Now, these

independent, democratic, worker-controlled organisations are providing services to the public and private sectors.

"Business enterprises are only interested in profits," Cristian Mino, a cooperative movement activist, told InterPress Service. "In contrast, in a cooperative there is comradeship: we are all owners together, and if one of us gets into difficulties, the cooperative is there to help out."

At the peak of the crisis, the unemployment rate was over 24%, and more than 54% of the population was living in poverty. The centre-left government of the late President Nestor Kirchner (2003-2007) created cooperatives to build housing in Florencio Varela neighbourhood of Buenos Aires as one of several experiments to combat joblessness. Today, the Florencio Varela Federation of Worker Cooperatives has 600 members. Most work in the construction industry, although some grow plants in nurseries, carry out forestation projects, or produce pre-moulded fences, furniture, ironwork, windows and doors.

In 2009, the ministry of social development launched the "Argentina Works" programme with the goal of creating 100,000 jobs for unemployed people who lack training and have no other income. The ministry signed agreements with local governments to provide training and carry out infrastructure works. The cooperatives build drains and water mains, community centres and soup kitchens, refurbish schools and health centres, mend roads, and provide access facilities for the disabled.

The new recruits receive work clothes, and are paid 1,200 pesos

(\$300) a month. They have to register with the social security services to ensure entitlement to health care and, eventually, a pension. The National Confederation of Worker Cooperatives now has some 3000 member groups.

Miners' strike spreads in Albania

A work stoppage which began in late July at the Bulqiza chromium mine in Albania continued through August, with some miners launching hunger strikes. On August 16, the strike spread to two other mines, at Puka and Brezhen. Albanian Chrome (ACR) accuses the miners of reneging on an earlier contract, and refuses to bargain with their union leaders.

Kol Nikollaj, who heads the miners' union, says the strikers want a 20% increase in salaries and improved conditions, such as places to eat and shower.

"Our demands have been accepted in principle, but they were not signed by ACR," Nikollaj told the media. He says the miners' representatives met with ACR three times in January, with the Labour Ministry acting as mediator, but the talks bore no fruit.

"When negotiations fail, strikes follow. Since the strike started, there has been no institutional communication with ACR. However, we have 90 people who work in shifts to keep the mine in order," Nikollaj said.

Albania's Ministry of Energy concurs with the miners' demands, and has called for "constructive dialogue" and strict implementation of the laws. The ministry warns that unless conditions are improved, the mines could be closed.

Many items in our "Global Class Struggle" column are from the Labour Start website, www.labourstart.org

Send me information on the Communist Party of Canada



The Communist Party of Canada, formed in 1921, has a proud history of fighting for jobs, equality, peace, Canadian independence, and socialism. The CPC does much more than run candidates in elections. We think the fight against big business and its parties is a year-round job, so our members are active across the country, to build our party and to help strengthen people's movements on a wide range of issues. All our policies and leadership are set democratically by our members. To find out more about Canada's party of socialism, contact the nearest CPC office.

Central Committee CPC
290A Danforth Ave, Toronto, ON, M4K 1N6
416-469-2446 <info@cpc-pcc.ca> www.comunist-party.ca

Parti Communiste du Quebec (section du Parti communiste du Canada)
5359 Ave Du Parc, Suite "C"
Montreal, QC, H2V 4G9
Email: pcq@cpc-pcc.ca Tél: 438-338-8890

B.C. Committee CPC
706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3J1
Tel: 604-254-9836 E-mail: cpbc@telus.net

Edmonton CPC
Box 68112, 70 Bonnie Doon PO
Edmonton, AB, T6C 4N6
Tel: 780-465-7893 Fax: 780-463-0209

Calgary CPC
Unit #1, 19 Radcliffe Close SE,
Calgary, AB, T2A 6B2 Tel: 403-248-6489

Saskatchewan CPC
Email: mail@communist-party-sk.ca

Ottawa CPC
Tel: 613-232-7108

Manitoba Committee CPC
387 Selkirk Ave., Winnipeg, MB, R2W 2M3
Tel/fax: 204-586-7824

Ontario Ctee. CPC
290A Danforth Ave., Toronto, M4K 1N6
Tel: 416-469-2446

Hamilton Ctee. CPC
265 Melvin Ave., Apt. 815
Hamilton, ON, L8H 2K3
Tel: 905-548-9586

Atlantic Region CPC
Box 70, Grand Pré, NS, B0P 1M0
Tel/fax: 902-542-7981

WFDY meeting hits back at capitalist crisis

Special to PV

This summer, youth organizations from across the European and North American region of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) gathered in Berlin to assess the struggles of the youth and prepare for the next WFDY general assembly in Portugal.

Sixteen youth organizations, including the YCL-LJC Canada, discussed current events and struggles in their respective countries and how they see the international situation developing.

The meeting condemned the NATO attacks on Libya, as well as the imperialist manoeuvres against the government of Syria. It also paid close attention to the mass resistance of the progressive forces against the economic crisis.

"The current aggression forced upon the working class by transnational capitalism, under the pretext of liquidity attacks on the European public sector, was one of the main matters of discussion," Carlos Bracons told *People's Voice*. Bracons attended the meeting as a representative from the YCL-LJC Canada.

"The delegates from Greece, Portugal and Spain enumerated in detail the widespread theft of public assets by capitalism and imperialism, and the associated social spending cuts aimed to push workers out of the public health and education system in order to privatize health care, pensions, and post-secondary education," he said.

Most of the measures described

by the youth organizations did not aim to reduce the public deficit but "to please big capital and the forces behind the speculative attacks on debt titles," Bracons said, adding that "the governments sided with big capital, over-indebting themselves for years by recklessly wasting money on weaponry, the Olympic Games, and various other non-profitable infrastructures. This is now giving grounds to the current attack on democracy and the welfare state."

A WFDY statement following the meeting said "In the context of the crisis of the capitalist system, in practically all countries the situation is similar: under the excuse of the 'lack of money' or 'deficit reduction', workers and young people are having their rights destroyed, facing the privatization of education, the increase of unemployment and the generalization of precarious, temporary and flexible forms of work."

The YCL-LJC described the dangerous outcome of the last Canadian federal election and the struggles of the YCL in response. Delegates were interested in learning about the fight-back in Canada, especially NAFTA, the privatization of education and the recent lockout of Canada Post workers.

The group decided to support several days of action in favour of Free Public Education, against the imperialist war in Libya, and against the liquidity blackmail that big business is carrying out in Europe and, in a different fashion, the USA. It also admitted a Russian left youth

group and COMAC, the youth of the Workers Party of Belgium.

The meeting was hosted by the SDAJ (Socialist German Worker's Youth) of Germany, who toured the delegates around important places of resistance against

fascism in Berlin. "Many of the delegates were astonished to learn about the attacks today by anti-communist groups against left-wing organizations in Berlin. The windows of many groups' buildings are repeatedly smashed

and spray-painted with fascist graffiti," Bracons said.

An Asian Pacific regional meeting of WFDY was held in Vietnam in June, focusing on the problem of the environment and sustainable development. A regional meeting of North Africa and Middle East affiliates took place in April in Egypt, and focused on the developments in that region.

The 18th General Assembly of the World Federation of Democratic Youth will take place this November. Hosted by the Portuguese Communist Youth under the slogan "Fortify WFDY, strengthen the anti-imperialist struggle, for a world of peace solidarity and revolutionary social transformation!", the meeting will review the past four years' work and elect a new leadership. The YCL-LJC encourages all Canadian youth to bring proposals to take with us to the General Assembly. ●



SDAJ banner at rally honouring German Communist pioneers Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht. (Photo by Thomas Rasloff)

Venezuela to nationalize gold mining

President Hugo Chavez has announced that Venezuela's gold mining industry will be nationalized, and that \$11 billion in gold reserves currently held in U.S. and European banks will be returned home. Chavez said the recall of the gold reserves will help protect the country from the economic woes of the United States and Europe.

"We're going to start to bring back our gold to the Central Bank," Chavez said in a telephone call

broadcast live on state television.

Central Bank president Nelson Merentes said on television, "At the time of these disturbances, it's preferable to recover our assets, in this case the gold, and have it here in the vaults," Merentes said.

The Russian company Rusoro Mining Ltd., owned by the Agapov family, controls one of Venezuela's most important gold mines in the country's southeast. The largest gold mining company operating in the country, Rusoro produced about 100,000 ounces of gold in Venezuela in 2010.

Chavez said the decree will allow the government to "begin to take over the gold zone," where authorities have periodically carried out operations to evict

wildcat miners from illegal mines. The president said the government aims to fight "mafias" that have been taking some of the country's gold.

Venezuela has been relatively small in the gold world, with formal mining producing about 6 tonnes a year. But it boasts some of Latin America's biggest gold deposits, buried below the jungles south of the Orinoco river.

Last year, gold miners were allowed to export up to 50 percent of production, up from 30 percent previously. The other 50 percent must be sold to the central bank. But that did not satisfy foreign companies like Rusoro, which said the limits made it harder to get financing and develop projects. ●

Indian Communists debate Tamil issue

An urgent political solution is still needed to protect the right of Sri Lankan Tamils to live with dignity and equality; this was the conclusion of a special convention held by the Tamil Nadu state committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in late July.

The CPI(M) and the Communist Party of India received 1.6 million votes in last May's elections in Tamil Nadu, about 4.4% of the total. The two parties are part of the AIADMK coalition which swept that election. Sri Lanka's Tamils, largely brought from Tamil Nadu by the British as labourers, have endured historic discrimination as a minority on the island.

At the CPI(M) convention, Prakash Karat, the party's general secretary, noted that the armed conflict ended two years ago, but the Sri Lankan government has failed to tackle the problems of the defeated Tamils. Instead, President Rajapakse has used delaying tactics while strengthening the process of militarisation.

Referring to the atrocities committed on innocent people during the last phase of the armed conflict, Karat demanded a high level enquiry with authority to hold accountable the responsible authorities. However, the Sri Lankan government is in a "denial mode", even though a UN panel report has reported on atrocities committed by both sides.

During the last phase of the armed conflict, more than 40,000 innocent Tamils were killed by the Lankan army, which bombed hospitals and even Red Cross vehicles. More than 5000 youth



are still held by the army, and over 60,000 persons are in relief camps. The UN report has also noted human rights violations by the Tamil Tigers (LTTE), such as the use of innocent people as human shields.

At this juncture, Prakash Karat pointed out, a key question concerns the rehabilitation and resettlement of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees who are unable to return to their homes. The major barrier to settlement is the failure to dismantle emergency rule in the affected areas, where the army plays an important role in the administration.

This issue has become a concern for all democratic forces in India and Sri Lanka, said Prakash Karat, stressing the need for a fresh approach based on genuine autonomy. He called on India to press the Sri Lankan government to fulfil its commitment for a political solution, and urged the Sri Lankan government to immediately take up measures for rehabilitation and resettlement, demilitarisation, and ending emergency rule.

The leader of the Tamil National Alliance (which recently won local elections in Northern and Eastern regions of Sri Lanka), and a member of the Sri Lankan parliament, Suresh Premachandran, also addressed the CPI(M) delegates.

Premachandran gave a chilling account of atrocities committed by the Lankan armed forces in the last phase of the armed conflict against the LTTE when the media was not permitted in the war zone. Since then, the armed forces have started encroaching the land, leaving many families with no livelihood. More than 100,000 families are to be resettled, and there is no information about many Tamils abducted during the armed conflict.

Prakash Karat announced that on August 9, mass rallies in Tamil Nadu will call for a democratic political solution. There will also be demonstrations outside the parliament in New Delhi, and the CPI(M) will discuss this issue at its next Central Committee meeting.

A special resolution adopted by the CPI(M) convention stresses that "right from 1948, Sri Lankan governments have practised a discriminatory approach against the Tamils." The resolution calls for "an independent and honest inquiry of international standard" into the human rights violations and war crimes; the release of all Tamil youth being illegally held; the merger of the Northern and Eastern provinces with greater autonomy; equal treatment regarding language and religion; and a federal system of government to replace the presidential system. ●

U.S. fighter jets grounded

The wired.com website reported on August 11 on problems the U.S. military faces with its latest fighter jets. Considering that the Harper Tory government wants to spend up to \$30 billion to purchase, equip and maintain a fleet of JSF F-35 fighter-bombers, Canadians need to know this information:

In past few decades, the U.S. Air Force has spent untold billions researching and developing a family of stealth fighter jets that are supposed to be generations ahead of any dogfighters in the sky. But after building more than 170 F-22 Raptors and a handful of F-35 Joint Strike Fighters, not a single one is available for service. The Air Force currently has zero flyable stealth fighters. None.

The vaunted F-22 has been grounded with a possible faulty oxygen system since May. Production of the last few Raptors is even on hold, because the jets can't fly from the factory.

Last week, test flights for the newer F-35 were suspended, too, because of a valve problem in the plane's integrated power package. It's the third time this year that JSFs have been forbidden to fly. Ground tests have resumed, and flight tests may resume as early as next week. Then again, they may not.

Yesterday, the U.S. military committed to spending another \$535 million to buy 38 more Joint Strike Fighters - a family of stealth jets that are supposed to become the multipurpose, affordable workhorses of tomorrow's fleet. Ninety percent of America's combat aviation power is eventually supposed to come from the jets' three variants.

But the jets have been anything but cheap. The current cost for the JSF program is \$382 billion and rising for more than 2,400 aircraft. No wonder just about every major deficit reduction plan scales back the JSF effort in some way.

And, at the moment, they're not producing any combat power, either. Back in 2002, the plan was to have more than 90 JSFs flying by next year. As things currently stand, the Air Force and Navy might not get their variants until 2016. The Marines - who knows?

For now, every available penny in the JSF program is tied up in getting the jets back into the air and their programs on track.

"The so-called '5th-generation' fighters have certainly revolutionized U.S. air power," notes Bill Sweetman [a prominent U.S. writer on aviation technology], "if not quite in the way anyone had in mind." ●



History through the lens of a unique writer

Champagne and Meatballs: Adventures of a Canadian Communist, by Bert Whyte, edited and with introduction by Larry Hannant, Athabasca University Press, 2011

Reviewed by David Lethbridge

Bert Whyte was born into a mining family in the town of Cobalt, Ontario, in 1909. During the Depression he travelled across the country and was incarcerated in one of "Bennett's 20-cent-a-day slave camps." He met any number of militants, Wobblies, and revolutionaries.

And then, in 1936, as Whyte tells it, he was working at a smelter in Noranda when a co-worker told him that a man from Toronto wanted to meet him at the all-night cafe at midnight. The man arrived, sidled down beside him and whispered quietly: "You wanna join Party?" "Which party?" Bert asked. "Communist Party!" "Sure," Bert said, and he made the Party his life.

For many years, Whyte wrote for the Party press, went underground as an organizer during the Party's illegal period, and enlisted in the army to fight fascism in the Second World War. The *Canadian Tribune* sent him as their correspondent to China from 1959 to 1963, and then to Moscow in 1966 where he remained until his death in 1984. The memoir Whyte wrote, *Champagne and Meatballs*, covers the period from his earliest years until he was sent to Beijing. He had intended to write a second volume recounting his time in China and Moscow, but illness took him before he could begin the sequel.

This is not an autobiography in the usual sense. What's more, it is perhaps less political than some readers might want or anticipate. But Whyte really knows how to tell a story! *Champagne and Meatballs* consists mostly of a series of alternatively humorous or deeply sad or revelatory anecdotes recounted with phrases often worthy of a top-rate novelist. From the very first pages the reader is drawn into Bert Whyte's



Bert Whyte

astonishingly rich life, treated to tale after tale, and left wanting more.

Bert's memoir was edited and introduced by Larry Hannant, who is in every way an exemplary historian of Left politics and labour history. Among his previous works is *The Politics of Passion*, a fine book on Norman Bethune focusing on his art and letters.

Hannant's "Introduction" is a brilliant gem of scholarship in itself and could almost be read as a separate essay, were it not for the obviously necessary and important references to Whyte's life and political career. From Hannant - who examined the still heavily redacted 3400 page file the RCMP accumulated on their target - we learn a good deal more about Bert Whyte's politics, his controversies with the CPC leadership, his disapproval of the Soviet response to the "Prague Spring" in Czechoslovakia, and his last years in the Soviet Union.

The final chapter is not from Bert's memoir; it is a selection from over two hundred letters that he wrote to his new wife Monica and their young son Eric in the months before they joined him in China. The letters add to the memoir by revealing Bert's enthusiastic encounter with a revolutionary country newly building the basis for socialism, and his meetings with such people as Anna Louise Strong and with Sydney Gordon, the co-author of the Bethune biography, *The Scalpel, the Sword*.

Champagne and Meatballs will interest not only the general reader, but every Party member. There are far too few published biographies by Canadian Communists, and Whyte's memoir provides an opportunity to revisit history through the lens of a unique individual and brilliant writer. ●

"Champagne and Meatballs" and a wide range of books on Canadian history and other topics are available from People's Co-op Books, 1391 Commercial Dr., Vancouver, BC, V5L 3X5, tel. 604-253-6442. Order on line from www.peoplescoopbookstore.com

Rebel Youth #12 hot off the press

We are happy to announce that the latest *Rebel Youth* magazine, issue 12, is hot off the press. Published by the Young Communist League and printed by

union labour, this edition has articles covering a variety of topics.

As the editorial says, "This is shaping up to be a summer of important struggles for the youth

and student movement. On the one hand, there are massive uprisings and protests around the world especially Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, to say nothing of the anti-imperialist direction of Latin America. On the other hand, elections in our country have returned the most right-wing government in Canadian history.

"These are the subjects of two feature articles we present in *Rebel Youth* issue 12, together with an overview of important political issues discussed at the 17th World Festival of Youth and Students in South Africa, this past December."

Also in this issue are articles on Ronnie the Bren Gun Girl, movie and CD reviews, the new BC political situation, the environment, the upcoming cross-Canada day of student action, the quotes of "class enemy of the month" Stephen Harper, the struggle of the Posties, Slutwalk, Hockey Fans For Peace, young and old workers together rejecting two-tier contracts, as well as a new section on theory and ideology.

Rebel Youth is available from 290A Danforth Ave., Toronto, ON, M4K 1N6. Single issues are \$3.50 plus postage. A one year subscription (3 issues) costs \$12 for domestic mailing in Canada. ●

rebel youth
Now is the time to organize!

inside

REVOLUTION, FREEDOM & 50,000+ BOMBS OF DEATH
North Africa and the Middle East rise up. Tunisia, Egypt! Inspire the world. But why is Canada now bombing Libya?

WHAT TO DO ABOUT THIS GOVERNMENT WE DIDN'T (MOSTLY) VOTE FOR?
Theory for Activists: NY introduces a new series with an out-of-print classic on philosophy and work.

STUDENTS CALL CROSS-CANADA DAY OF ACTION

PLUS: Bren Gun Girl Ronnie; Class enemy of the month; Letter to the posties -- we are with you! // Issue #12 | \$3.50



MUSIC NOTES

By Wally Brooker

Rovics to play Ottawa Tahrir Benefit

Revolutionary singer-songwriter David Rovics, one of the outstanding troubadours in the USA these days, will give a concert at the University of Ottawa's Alumni Auditorium Oct. 2 to raise funds for the Canadian Boat to Gaza. Rovics is an activist musician who tours constantly, playing for audiences large and small at cafes, pubs, universities, churches, union halls and protest rallies. His music has been featured on Democracy Now!, BBC and Al-Jazeera. The 200+ songs he makes freely available on the web (<http://davidrovics.com>) have been downloaded more than a million times. Among the concert's sponsors are the Communist Party of Canada (Rosa Luxembourg Club), Carleton University CPC, the YCL, Students for Palestinian Human Rights (University of Ottawa), Students Against Israeli Apartheid (Carleton University), Independent Jewish Voices, and the Ottawa anarchist group Exile. Tickets are \$10-\$20 (sliding scale). The show starts at 7 pm. For more info e-mail Larry Wasslen at cpcarleton@yahoo.ca.

Gary Cristall's folk music history

The history of folk music in this land is closely connected to the struggles for labour rights, social justice, and peace. Vancouver folk music historian and long-time impresario Gary Cristall has been tracing these connections through such projects as his 2008 five-part CBC radio series "The People's Music" and his ongoing project to write the definitive history of folk music in English Canada. Last April "Music Notes" carried a story about one of the fruits of Cristall's research: his discovery and release of historic recordings by the outstanding '60s Ukrainian-Canadian folk group The Milestones. An outline and preliminary draft of some chapters of "A History of Folk Music in Canada" is online. Cristall invites people with stories and memorabilia to contact him and help tell the story of the people's music. Visit <http://folkmusichistory.com/>.

Media watchdog rules Israel "apartheid"

A ruling by South Africa's Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) has dismissed complaints against a radio ad which called for a boycott of Israel and compared the Zionist state to apartheid South Africa. The ruling referred to a message broadcast on a South African Broadcasting Company station by Dave Randall, lead guitarist of the U.K. band Faithless, in support of South African Artists Against Apartheid. The ASA rejected the complaint registered by the South African Jewish Board of Deputies that Randall's message is "false propaganda." Reggae DJ The Admiral, a member of South African Artists Against Apartheid, welcomed the ruling: "The ASA decision is significant due to our own history of apartheid. The decision sends a clear message to the Zionist lobby that the time has come for an end to the baseless accusations of 'discrimination' and 'hate speech' whenever criticism of Israel is voiced." Visit www.southafricanartistsagainstapartheid.com/.

Harlem in Vogue: Langston Hughes

Before there was Gil Scott-Heron, rap and hip-hop, there was jazz poetry. This hybrid art genre was popularized in the 1950's by "Beat" poets like Jack Kerouac and Kenneth Rexroth, but those artists were working in a field first explored by the great African-American poet Langston Hughes (1902-1967). A generation earlier Hughes had been one of the central figures of the "Harlem Renaissance". He went on to become one of the leading artist-intellectuals of the American left during the New Deal era and beyond. *Harlem in Vogue: The Poetry & Jazz of Langston Hughes* (Fingertips, 2011) is a double CD of considerable artistic and historical significance. It makes available once again the brilliant jazz-poetry recordings Hughes made in the late fifties with orchestras led by composer-critic Leonard Feather and bassist Charles Mingus. For information visit <http://fingertipsrecords.com/>.

Jazz great Ahmad Jamal a terrorist?

Eighty-year-old African-American pianist Ahmad Jamal, a native of Pittsburgh and long-time jazz luminary, came under suspicion in June. US authorities mistook him for Jamal Ahmad Mohammad Al Badawi, a fifty-year old Yemeni wanted by the FBI for helping to plan the *USS Cole* bombing, which killed 17 American sailors back in 2000. US authorities froze the \$10,000 that the Festival da Jazz in St. Moritz, Switzerland, was to pay the pianist in advance of his July 16 concert. Ahmad Jamal changed his name from Frederick Russell Jones when he converted to Islam in 1952. He is a recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters Award and is Duke Ellington Fellow at Yale University. More than a matter of mistaken identity, it's a case of racial and religious stereotyping, not to mention ignorance of one of America's defining art forms. Organizers of the Festival da Jazz responded by inviting US federal agents to attend their concerts as guests of honour, but apparently the Justice Department has declined the offer. ●

Debt crisis a class issue...

continued from page 6

agreements, privatisation of key public assets and financial deregulation. Capital is becoming bolder and more direct in its global domination and dictatorship. For decades the International Monetary Fund and World Bank have dictated economic policy to Third World countries. Now, it is the turn of Western industrialised nations, as capital continues to wind back social security and public services, including health and education. It constitutes a massive transfer of public wealth to the private sector.

The "debt crisis" assault is the next big step in a process commenced under Thatcher, Reagan and in Australia by Hawke and Keating. It has been pursued by successive social democrat and conservative governments. Social democracy has been used to play a key role, taking the "hard decisions", because of its ability

to contain resistance by the labour movement. If the Republicans in the US or conservative parties had attempted to bring in the same neo-liberal, attacks on people's past gains, there would have been far stronger opposition.

In Australia, the major deregulatory and privatisation moves were made by Labor not Coalition governments. Labor also commenced the process of destroying the centralised award system governing wages and working conditions. Its reforms paved the way for the first individual employment contracts and non-union agreements. The Howard government met strong resistance to its WorkChoices, but Labor's failure to repeal WorkChoices (only making minor changes) or abolish the Australian Building and Construction Commission have not met with the same degree of opposition.

The struggles against the anti-people, budgetary cuts have

reflected the strength of left forces in the labour movement, in particular the strength of communist parties.

Under the leadership of the communist-led All Workers Militant Front (PAME) and the Communist Party, millions of people have been brought out onto the streets against the cuts across Greece. It has not been left to the parliamentary arena.

Communist Parties in Greece, Portugal and other EU countries are fighting for expansionary economic policies based on job creation, higher wages and pensions, nationalisation, controls on foreign finance and imports. They are calling for reductions in military budgets, an end to involvement in overseas wars. They are looking at increasing the taxation of financial institutions and other corporations. Their policies are expansionary, pro-people and pro-environment, and involve the abandonment of neo-liberalism. ●

Building broad youth struggles

Comment by Johan Boyden, General Secretary of the Young Communist League

The other day, I was talking with a passionate youth activist about Walmart, which first invaded Canada with the 1994 purchase of the Woolco chain, closing all non-union stores. Since then, Walmart has been locked in a hard battle with the labour movement. There are now over 200 Walmart discount stores and 124 "Supercenters."

In many cases, not only does the labour movement try to organize Wal-marts, but also to block construction of new stores, working with coalitions of local activists, community groups and small business owners. For a time, these campaigns were a flashpoint issue in the youth and student movement. After all, as a moral representative of monopoly capitalism, Walmart is a weak link.

But in these campaigns, could there be a danger for labour and working-class people?

Sooner or later, the point is made that shopping at Walmart is not such a good thing. Youth and students, often brave but with limited experience, can be sucked into the idea that Walmart shoppers are ignorant but complicit schmucks.

Never mind that the cost of living is going up while wages stagnate.

Ontario....

continued from page 7

have delivered for the corporations and the wealthy while living standards for working people collapse, "voting Tory to punish the Liberals would be jumping out of the frying pan into the fire".

The Communist Party says the best outcome in these circumstances is the election of a minority government with a strong left ballast, including Communists who will fight for policies to curb corporate power, create jobs and raise living standards, reverse the HST and introduce progressive tax policies and tax relief for working people, and expand civil, social, labour and democratic rights. ●

The anti-working class idea slips in that Walmart shoppers are also the problem. Why don't they just buy local!

On the other hand, how often have these small business owners advocated for working class issues like raising the minimum wage? When the Postal Workers' negotiations broke down over pensions, wages and benefits, the Canadian Association of Small Business wrote an open letter to Canada Post urging the crown corporation to stand firm in their reactionary bargaining positions.

And what about rightward thinking social democrats in such coalitions, who invariably try to bring the unity of the movement down to the bottom line demands, at the expense of working people?

So the call for caution when working people fight with other groups, strata or classes in society, like small business, is not unjustified. Maybe truly progressive youth activists should restrict or focus our alliance work to just trade unions?

It might seem a logical application of Marxist analysis to identify the working class forces within a movement, and propose that they be pitted against the non-working class elements. The mistake, however, often made honestly and with good intentions, is to confuse the class with the movement.

Marxists define a person's class according to the individual's relationship to the means of production: do they own the tools, equipment, machinery, natural resources, etc. used in making goods and services?

The working class majority do not own any means of production and must work for a living. Those who own the economy, and can survive without working themselves, are the capitalists. But these two main classes are not the only ones - there are also intellectuals, professionals, small business owners, farmers, etc.

Today, it is difficult to find a people's struggle, other than the labour movement, which is not in some way a class mix. As big business dominates all aspects of social life, and attacks even basic democratic rights, most struggles are "cross-class" - the peace

movement, the student movement, or the women's movement.

A movement has a specific grievance and goal. Because of its diverse identity (in terms of age, gender, ethnicity, nationality, etc.) the working class embraces all progressive movements. The interest of the working class ultimately includes its liberation from and the defeat of capitalism by socialism.

Moreover, the working class learns from such alliances. Few progressive movements can truly win a profound victory over capital without socialism - even if the movement itself does not advocate for socialism. Rather this is the role of voices like the communists, who put forward an immediate agenda for unity and struggle - to help overcome organizational shortfalls, to build unity by convincing people to set aside minor differences and just sweat the big stuff, to help create the political will for action, and to side with the working people.

In practice, the sectarian route - extending the class war into the people's movements - would be disastrous. It would undermine the fighting unity of these forces, orienting the struggle inward instead of against the main enemy.

Campaigns like the Young Communist League's "Charter of Youth Rights" branch out in the opposite direction, seeking the kind of broad, powerful unity that is needed to defeat the Harper government and win a new, progressive direction for Canada. ●



www.torontostopthecuts.com

What's Left

Burnaby, BC

An evening of your favourite songs, with musicians Tom Hawken, Linda Chobotuck and Joyce Holmes, plus full turkey dinner and dessert, Sat., Sept. 24. Doors 6:30 pm, Program 8 pm, 5435 Kincaid Street. Info and RSVP Anna 604-294-6775. \$20/person, kids under 12 \$10, limited seating. Proceeds: Burnaby Club.

Vancouver, BC

Labour Day Festival, 11-3, Monday, Sept. 5, Robson Square. For information on Labour Day events across the province, contact BC Federation of Labour, 604-430-1421 or www.bcfed.ca.

COPE policy and nomination meeting, Sunday, Sept. 18, registration starts 8:30 am, Coast Plaza Hotel, 1763 Comox St. For information ph. 604-254-0400 or www.cope.bc.ca.

Annual Women's Housing March, Sat., Sept. 17, 1:30 pm, from Cordova and Columbia, organized by Downtown Eastside Women Centre Power of Women Group.

Left Film Night, returns with "GASLAND", documentary on the impact of natural gas "fracking" industry, 7 pm, Sun., Sept. 25, Centre for Socialist Education, 706 Clark Dr. Free, call 604-255-2041 for info.

Saskatoon, SK

Indigenous Young Women: Speaking our Truths, register by Sept. 9 deadline for this Nov. 18-21 conference. Info: 1-888-948-1112 or Natasha@girlsactionfoundation.ca, or google "Girls Action Foundation".

Winnipeg, MB

Radical BookFair & DIY Fest, Friday Sept. 23, 7 pm, panel discussion in Mondragon, and music show. Sat., Sept. 24, 11 am-5 pm, book tables on Albert St with workshops in nearby spaces. Sun., Sept. 25 fundraising brunch in Mondragon plus book tables on the street noon to 4 pm, DIY workshops in nearby spaces.

Toronto, ON

STOP FORD'S CUTS, Sat., Sept. 10, 1 pm, Dufferin Grove Park, 875 Dufferin (north of College). Mass meeting to lay out a People's Declaration set of demands to deliver to City Hall. **Monday, Sept. 26, 5:30 pm, rally at City Hall** to defend communities, public services, and good jobs!

Meet the Communist Candidates in Ontario, "People Before Profits" election rally, Sat., Sept. 17, 7 pm, GCDO Hall (290 Danforth Ave., Chester subway). Food, cash bar, music, everyone welcome. 416-469-2446 for info.

Globalization and world inequality, ten-week study course, Mondays, 7-10 pm, Sept. 27-Dec. 6 at the Labour Education Centre (LEC), cost \$120, for info visit www.laboureducation.org or www.mlec.org.

Montreal, QC

Palestinians And Jews United, boycott/disinvestment/sanctions picket, every Saturday, 1-3 pm, outside Israeli shoe store "NAOT", 3941 St-Denis Street.

People's Voice deadlines

September 16-30 issue: Thursday, Sept. 8

October 1-15 issue: Thursday, Sept. 22

Send submissions to PV Editorial Office,
706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, V5L 3J1,
<pvoice@telus.net>

Alienation & unrest...

continued from page 5

explosion is inevitable. Even if the activities of the rioters range from craven to heroic, objectively the responsibility lies with the bourgeois state that itself is doomed, unable and unwilling to provide subsistence and dignity to millions of young people.

It is not acceptable to sit in judgment of those who plunder and burn at home while honouring those who do so as an instrument of imperial policy on a grander scale in the third world. After all, they do not cannibalize like their masters. The spread of their activities from city to city, described as a plague by hired wordsmiths of capital, is really an act of youth solidarity. It is completely logical for the struggle to expand. The capitalists globally are not in a panic yet, but if they had any brains they would be.

What is needed everywhere is the leadership of the working class to give tactics, strategy and discipline to this struggle. This requires an objective and a program of escalating demands that can be fought for and organized around, eventually making the possibility of a socialist world not utopian but real. To adjust demands to what the capitalists say is available will leave the youth where they are now: surplus humanity. To comply is to be recruited to the parameters of the state and become an accomplice in the control mechanism.

The corporations can do this with social democrats, but not with communists. The responsibility for this leadership rests historically with the working class and their most organized section, the unions. The responsibility for injecting this consciousness of historical necessity into the class struggle rests with the Communist Parties. ●

Colombian unionist marks three years in jail

By Kimball Cariou

A Colombian trade union activist well-known to many Canadians has passed the three-year mark in a Bogota prison. Lilianny Obando, who has toured several countries to speak out against human rights abuses in her homeland, has yet to face trial, and the "evidence" against her is utterly discredited. But she and 7500 other political prisoners remain jailed by a regime with close ties to Canada's Harper government.

In a powerful statement released on August 8, the third anniversary of her imprisonment, Lilianny Obando vividly describes her ordeal: "I am a woman among more than 7,500 Colombian political prisoners, both men and women, who suffer and resist with dignity the harshness of a judicial system, prisons and a state that denies us and disqualifies us, calling us 'terrorists' and which seeks to annul us as individuals and break us as social and political activists."

Obando is one target of the so-called "FARC-politics" legal assault, which accused a wide range of democratic and labour activists of being supporters of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

"This personal nightmare", as Obando describes it, began on March 1, 2008, when the armed forces of Colombia unleashed Operation Phoenix on Ecuadorian territory. This operation, in violation of international law and the sovereignty of Ecuador, massacred insurgents including a leading FARC member, Raul Reyes, as well as several Mexican students.

Computers, removable hard drives and USB sticks were seized by the Colombian soldiers. These materials were turned over to prosecutors, but only after thousands of electronic files were manipulated. The files became the basis for the "FARC-politics" charges.

As Obando writes, "To my surprise, I heard my name on the lips of prosecutor Iguaron next to those of renowned personalities from politics, academia and journalism. Among those mentioned were Polo Democratico Alternativo [Democratic Pole]

congress members Gloria Ines Ramirez and Wilson Borja, Liberal Party Senator Piedad Cordoba, former minister Alvaro Leyva Duran, journalists Carlos Lozano Guillen, William Parra and Lazaro Viveros, the American academic James Jones and the Venezuelan parliamentarian Amilcar Figueroa... The common factor among those who were included in this line was the commitment taken up in the different areas of work of each one of us, some of us from the political opposition, to the defence of human rights, the search for scenarios of peace and humanitarian accords.

"...My life until then had passed between my professional work as a sociologist, my commitment to defending human rights, women's and labour rights, my membership in the left as a political option; my academic pursuits in the Masters in Political Studies at the National University of Colombia (I was preparing my graduate thesis), and raising my children (4 and 15 years) as a single mother...

"On August 8, 2008, while reading news online one item caught my complete attention - it was regarding the arrest warrant issued against me. Hours later my home was raided and I was led into

the cells of the DIJIN and then to the Women's Prison in Bogota where I remain still, 36 months later, with the status of CHARGED, waiting for justice to be done in my case and a clear abuse of pre-trial detention.

"In the raid, heavily armed police (DIJIN) succeeded in intimidating my elderly mother and my little children. At the site, they seized



documents, including some belonging to my mother and children, which are among the evidence being used against me.

"Leading the raid was the same captain of the DIJIN, Ronald Hayden Coy Ortiz, who had participated in Operation Phoenix. He sarcastically said to me among other things, it would make me famous, nationally and internationally, while other police filmed everything around me,

including my family members and myself from all angles..."

"The prosecutor laid charges of rebellion and managing resources for terrorist purposes against me, based on the alleged information obtained from the computing devices of the late leader of FARC, Raul Reyes. Charges I did not accept and consciously I prepared to subject myself to a trial to prove my innocence. The prosecutor then decided to issue a security measure against me by placing me in a prison facility. I was denied the benefit of home detention despite having fully demonstrated my status as a single mother. Later I would be denied the benefit a further nine times, being considered a 'danger to society' - something that does not happen to white collar criminals who are granted this benefit without any obstacle..."

On May 18, 2011, Colombia's Supreme Court of Justice (Criminal Division) issued a writ in the case against former congressman Wilson Borja, declaring that the physical evidence obtained in Operation Phoenix has no legal validity in any of these cases. On August 1, the Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice unanimously upheld the May 18 ruling.

Based on the ruling, Prof. Miguel Angel Beltran was released on June 3, and the extradition to Colombia of communist leader Manuel Olate was stopped. But judges have rejected applications for Obando's release.

As she writes, "Fortunately, since many people unfairly linked to this process have been acquitted, only Joaquin Becerra and I are still deprived of our freedom. Meanwhile my days are spent in a high security cell isolated from the rest of my fellow political prisoners, but with dignity, high morale and standing tall. We continue to fight for the freedom of all Colombian political prisoners. Someday it will be possible, and I will continue working freely once more for a truly democratic country enjoying political inclusion, social justice and peace."

She concludes by thanking "each and every one" of her supporters and members of her family, signing off as "Lilianny Obando, political prisoner; survivor of the genocide against the Patriotic Union." ●

To read the full text of Obando's statement, visit the website of the International Network in Solidarity with Colombian Political Prisoners, www.inspp.org

Huge protests demand free education in Chile

PV Vancouver Bureau

Students and their supporters have taken to the streets of Chile this summer to demand state-funded high-quality education for all. On August 9, 100,000 students, teachers and copper miners marched peacefully in Santiago and elsewhere for the fifth time in two months to demand that President Sebastian Pinera's right-wing administration scrap tuition fees and establish a "free and equal" education system.

Five days earlier, police attacked a banned march and arrested nearly 900 young protesters. The arrests sparked riots and attempts by protesters to break through police barricades blocking the way to the

presidential palace. Officers unleashed tear gas into huge crowds and later deployed tanks armed with water cannons.

"The results have shown one more time that the organisers do not have control of the marches," Chilean Interior Minister Rodrigo Hinzpeter declared. But the overwhelming majority of protesters had heeded organisers' call to march in a "massive, peaceful manner."

Writing in the Australian *Green Left Weekly*, one journalist described the scene: "As I walked out of the tercera comiseria (police station) on August 4, it hit me what had transpired on this incredible day. All I could hear were the sounds of the cacerolazo, people beating pots and pans in protest,

every street corner occupied by protesters who had erected barricades and lit bonfires. The echo of an updated song from the time of the Pinochet dictatorship sounding through the streets. The police, who spent most of the day throwing tear gas canisters and beating the shit out of people, could only look on as the people took control of the streets. The central store of La Polar, a giant chain of department stores implicated in a huge fraud of investors and customers, had been burnt to the ground."

The student revolt has been building since May. At one point, more than 180 schools and university campuses were occupied by students, who were often violently evicted by police and security forces.

Officially, Chile claims to enjoy the best education system in the region. In 2009, the country was first among Latin American states in the OECD's PISA rankings, which compare educational standards. But of the 65 countries that participated in the PISA tests, Chile ranked 64th in terms of segregation across social classes in its schools and colleges. Only Peru has a more socially divided system, described as "educational apartheid". Over half the schools in Chile, and most of the universities, are privately-run.

The student struggle has seen protests every Thursday, as tens of thousands of schoolchildren and university students take to the streets. Tactics have been diverse, from a mass kiss-in for education, to unfurling a huge Chilean flag with "free education" written on it during a key soccer match, to putting up barricades and burning tires in the middle of Santiago's morning traffic.

Hoping to crush the movement, the government banned the Aug. 4th march called by the FECH (Student Federation of La Universidad de Chile), which vowed the march would go ahead. Interior minister Rodrigo Hinzpeter declared that if anyone died or was injured, it would be the fault of FECH President Camila Vallejo.

Police were deployed to prevent students from gathering along the Alameda, the main street of Santiago, even preventing anyone who looked like a student from taking the subway at key stations. Many students and onlookers were beaten and arrested. For six hours, pitched battles were fought around the city centre.

In July, as his approval rating fell to 26%, President Pinera announced a massive cabinet shuffle. But protests sparked by poverty and inequality keep growing, and demonstrations are a daily occurrence in Santiago.

Starbucks baristas recently held a two-week hunger strike. In late July, a group of commuters, mainly builders and domestic workers, took over buses to protest against price hikes which force many to pay US\$320 for monthly passes. Environmentalists have marched against a plan to build a big hydroelectric plant in Patagonia. Copper miners have staged major strikes. Gay rights campaigners have stepped up demands for full equality. Transport workers have protested about job insecurity. Farmers have rallied about the impact of the strong Chilean peso on exports.

The era of economic growth under the neoliberal model has also meant a vast widening of the gap between working people and the rich in Chile. This upsurge signals that Chileans are renewing their radical political traditions. ●

NEWS FOR PEOPLE, NOT FOR PROFITS!

Every issue of PEOPLE'S VOICE gives you the latest on the fightback from coast to coast. Whether it's the struggle to defeat the Harper Tories, resistance to social cuts, solidarity with Cuba or workers' struggles around the world, we've got the news the corporate media won't print.

And we do more than that—we report and analyze events from a revolutionary perspective, helping to build the movements for justice and equality, and eventually for a socialist Canada. Read the paper that fights for working people—on every page—in every issue!

people's
VOICE

- \$30 for 1 year \$50 for 2 years
 Low income special rate: \$15 for 1 year
 Outside Canada: \$45 US or \$50 Cnd for 1 year

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Send to: People's Voice,
706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3J1

11/15